

LIPSCOMB REPORT

1ST DISTRICT

FALL/WINTER 2017



Chairman Lipscomb presides over the County Board's Annual Budget Adoption Meeting

THEODORE LIPSCOMB, SR.
Milwaukee County Board
Chairman and
1st District Supervisor

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APPOINTMENTS

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional
Planning Commission

Wisconsin Counties Association
Board of Directors

Dear Neighbors,

On a vote of 15 to 3, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a balanced budget of approximately \$1.15 billion for 2018 that avoids an increase in the wheel tax and preserves services for our citizens. Supervisors found compromise and crafted a budget that saves millions of dollars more, and taxes vehicle and property owners less, than what County Executive Abele proposed.

So much has been accomplished over the years despite serious budget challenges. Since taking office in 2008, I have secured needed resources for our parks and transit systems, relieved drastic cuts to public safety, and made significant investments in workforce development – all while tackling our structural deficit. I am particularly proud of leading the effort that prevented our public transit system from being outsourced to a private, for-profit company.

The challenges we confronted this year in the 2018 budget are nothing new. We continue to face growing pension and healthcare liabilities, underfunded state mandates, and long-deferred maintenance.

The 2018 budget adopted by the County Board grants County Executive Abele about 98% of his budget recommendations. The Executive's proposal to increase the wheel tax to \$60 per vehicle was rejected by the County Board as it was by 72% of voters in April. While I don't disagree with the general thesis that we need more revenue, this is a democracy and it is my job to listen to the people I represent.

I have always believed in taking a balanced approach to the County budget that looks at both increasing revenues and lowering expenses. Last year we increased revenues by implementing a \$30 wheel tax. This year it was time to find additional ways to save on expenses.

I authored the amendment that removed the wheel tax increase, and asked County departments to find ways to reduce expenses by 0.75 percent (or 3/4 of 1 percent). These cost saving measures can be achieved without affecting critical services. I added language to the budget urging the Abele Administration to review prior audits and focus on an evaluation of top heavy management, consultants, and outside contracts to achieve departmental savings.

The chart in this newsletter offers 2018 budget highlights, including additional proposals, adopted amendments, and details on how I voted. County Executive Abele did not issue any budget vetoes.

It remains an honor to serve as your 1st District Supervisor for Milwaukee County. I hope you and your family enjoy the coming holiday season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theo".

Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman
County Supervisor, 1st District

If you would like to receive periodic updates on County news and events in our community, sign up for my e-newsletter at www.milwaukee.gov/Lipscomb

Theodore LIPSCOMB

Milwaukee County Board Chairman & County Supervisor, 1st District



Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

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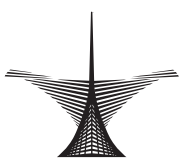
Sup. Lipscomb and his family, with Parks Director Dargle (left), cut the ribbon to celebrate the new Doctors Park pavilion.

Chairman Lipscomb invites you to enjoy FREE Milwaukee County attractions!



Free to all the first Thursday of every month, sponsored by Kohl's. County residents get \$2 off every day.

800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee
(414) 278-2728
www.mpm.edu



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

Free the first Thursday of every month for all visitors, sponsored by Meijer. Kids 12 & under free every day.

700 N. Art Museum Dr., Milwaukee
(414) 224-3200
www.mam.org



Free on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon for Milwaukee County residents. Excludes major holidays.










524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee
(414) 257-5611
www.milwaueedomes.org



Family Free Days & Special Holidays
2017: 12/2. 2018: 1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Year's Day.

10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee
(414) 256-5412
www.milwaukeezoo.org

MILWAUKEE COUNTY 2018 BUDGET UPDATE

BUDGET & POLICY ISSUES		County Executive Chris Abele 2018 BUDGET PROPOSAL	County Board of Supervisors 2018 ADOPTED BUDGET	Chairman Lipscomb BUDGET AMENDMENTS & VOTES
	County Departments	Relies heavily on tax and fee increases to fill budget gaps and fund departments	Asks departments for a modest 0.75% reduction in expenses totaling \$3.75 million in savings	Authored the amendment, which passed on a vote of 16 to 2
	Parks	Introduced a “pay-to-park” measure for lakefront and unspecified high-demand County Parks aimed at raising \$1.6 million in parking revenue	Explores broader revenue options, and requires a public hearing and County Board approval prior to implementing any “pay-to-park” plan	Voted in favor of the amendment, which passed 16 to 2
	Meaux and Lincoln Park	Proposed use of \$54,000 from a park trust fund for unspecified operations	Adds \$100,000 to Meaux and Lincoln Parks to address flooding along the parkway, improve the playground bathroom, and reinstall a drinking fountain at the basketball court	Authored the amendment, which passed unanimously
	Transit and Transportation	Proposed replacing 30 County buses for a cost of \$15 million. Funds a study of pedestrian/bicycle safety and traffic operations at the intersection of Good Hope and Pierron Roads for signal installation	Purchases 27 new buses rather than 30 for a savings of \$1.5 million	Authored the amendment that included bus replacement, which passed 16 to 2
	Senior Centers	Cut \$200,000 in funding from senior centers	Restores \$200,000 in funding to senior centers	Voted in favor of the amendment, which passed unanimously
	Airport Terminal	Proposed a projected \$25.2 million toward the construction of a new international terminal at MKE in 2018 with a total project cost of \$50 million paid from user fees	Requested a proper analysis of the project to ensure responsible due diligence prior to making the largest capital investment in Milwaukee County	Authored the amendment, which passed unanimously, believing that MKE travelers deserve an improved terminal experience
	Workforce Development	Allocated \$250,000 to “UpLift Milwaukee” to expand on the efforts of Chairman Lipscomb’s Ready to Work Initiative	Chairman Lipscomb co-authored the successful jobs training program in 2011, which is the precursor to “UpLift Milwaukee”	Supported this investment in workforce development, which was adopted as part of the 2018 Budget
	County Employees	Proposed funding 40 new positions throughout the County	Approved about half of the new positions Abele requested (including critical new hires) for a savings of \$1 million	Authored the amendment, which passed 16 to 2
	Wheel Tax	Proposed doubling the \$30 Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) or “Wheel Tax” to \$60 for County residents	Removed the proposal to double the wheel tax to \$60	Authored the amendment, which passed 16 to 2, and listened to 1st District residents who rejected the \$30 increase by about 66% in the April 2017 referendum

The Public Policy Forum is a non-profit, independent research organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of public policy decision-making in southeast Wisconsin.

“The solutions also are well known - either revenues need to be increased, or services need to be reduced. As we have suggested many times in the past, given the magnitude of the problem, a balanced approach employing both options would appear to be most appropriate.” **–Rob Henken, President of the Public Policy Forum, Public Policy Forum Budget Brief**

“On the positive side, we commend the author and supporters for carefully considering how to eliminate the \$30 VRF increase without shirking standards of fiscal responsibility. We applaud you for holding the line on the Debt Service Reserve and avoiding reductions to the recommended Pension Fund contribution. Likewise, it is notable that the amendment shuns other budgetary ‘gimmicks,’ such as unrealistic revenue estimates.” **–Rob Henken, President of the Public Policy Forum, County Board Public Hearing Statement**